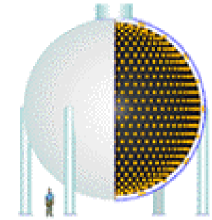
Short Baseline Neutrino Oscillations and MiniBooNE



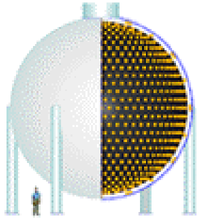
Jonathan Link

Columbia University

Workshop on Neutrino News from the Lab and the Cosmos

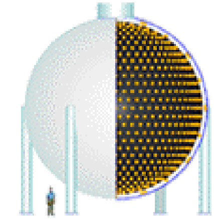
October 17-19, 2002

Outline



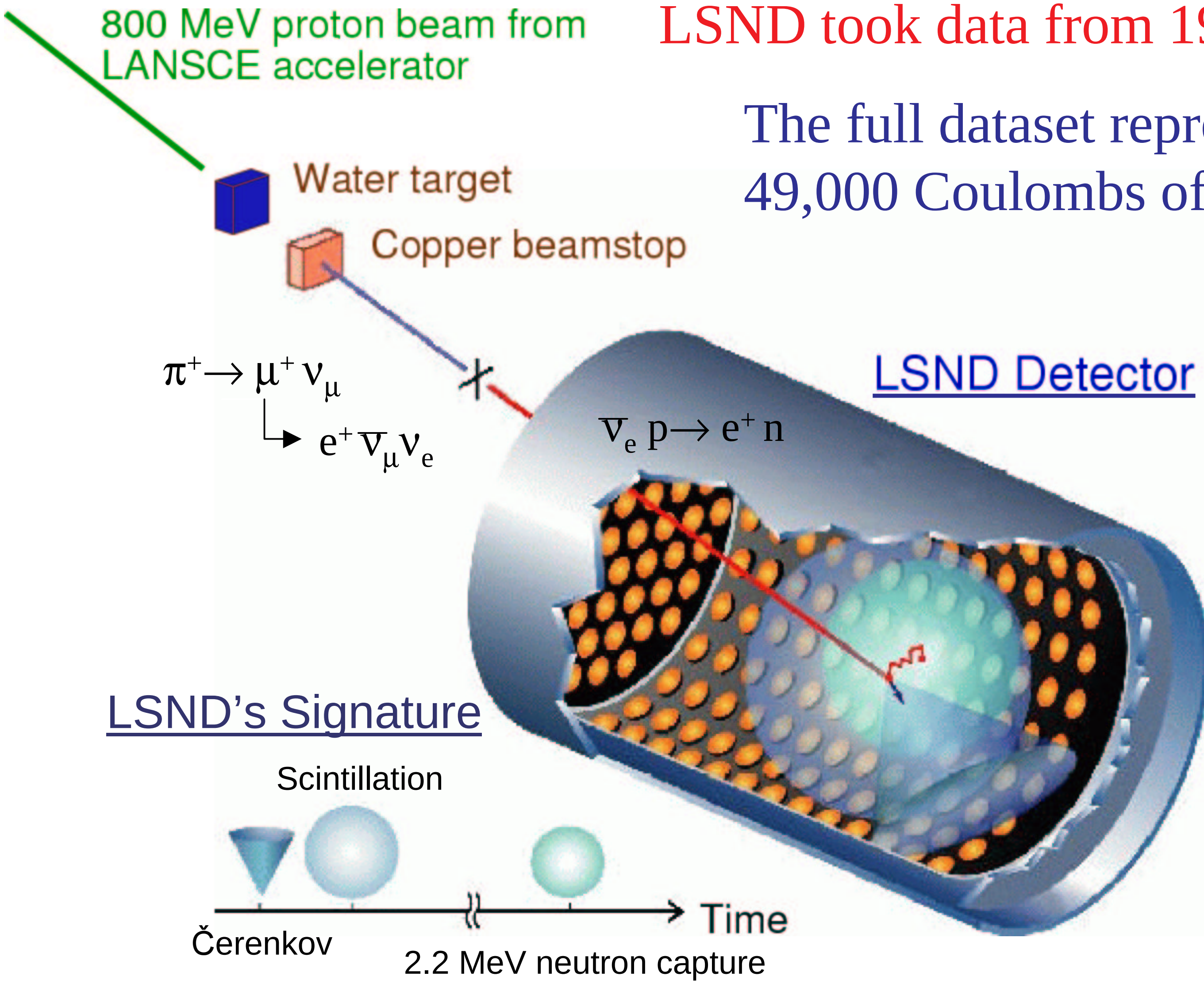
1. The LSND Experiment
    a. The experimental setup
    b. Results
    c. Ramifications
2. MiniBooNE
    a. The BooNE Collaboration
    b. The beam line and expected neutrino flux
    c. The MiniBooNE detector
    d. Expected backgrounds and systematics
    e. First neutrino events, and cosmic rays
    f. Non-oscillation physics with MiniBooNE
3. Conclusions and Outlook

The LSND Experiment



LSND took data from 1993-98

The full dataset represents nearly 49,000 Coulombs of protons on target.

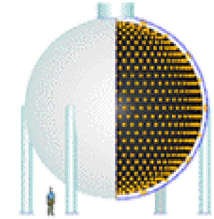


Baseline of 30 meters

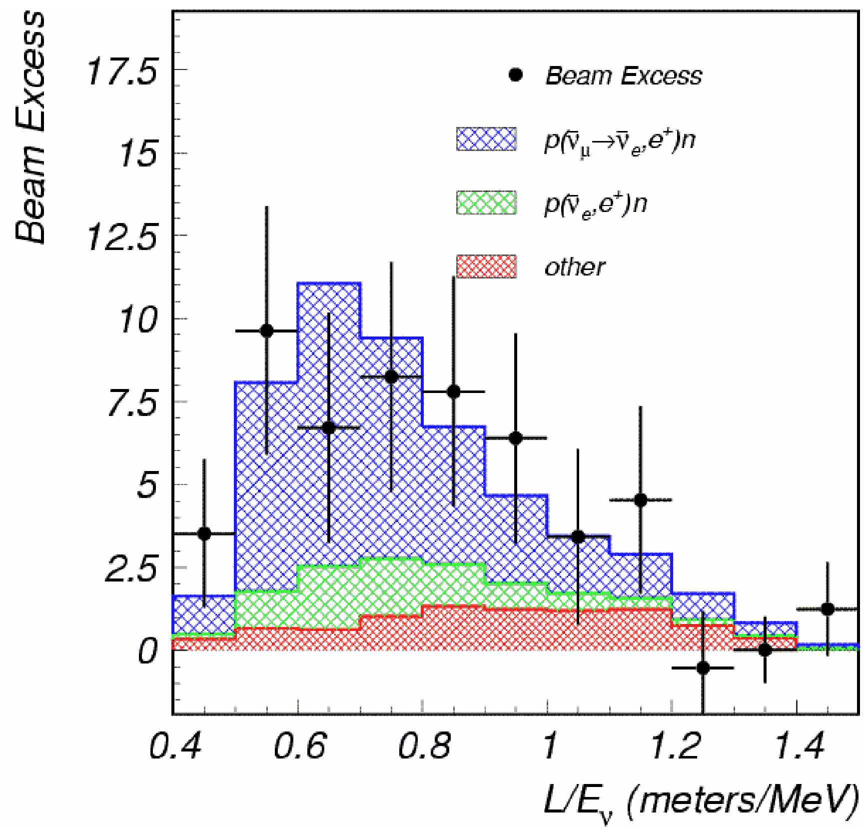
Energy range of 20 to 55 MeV

L/E of about 1m/MeV

LSND's Unexpected Result



They looked for an excess of $\bar{\nu}_e$ events in a $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ beam

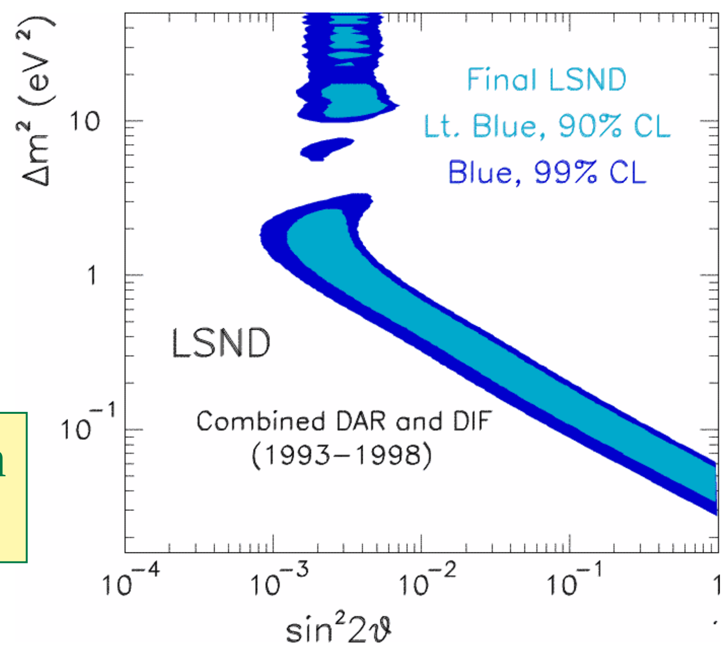


They found 87.9 ± 22.4 ± 6.0 events over expectation.

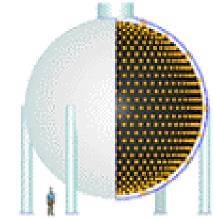
With an oscillation probability of (0.264 ± 0.067 ± 0.045)%.

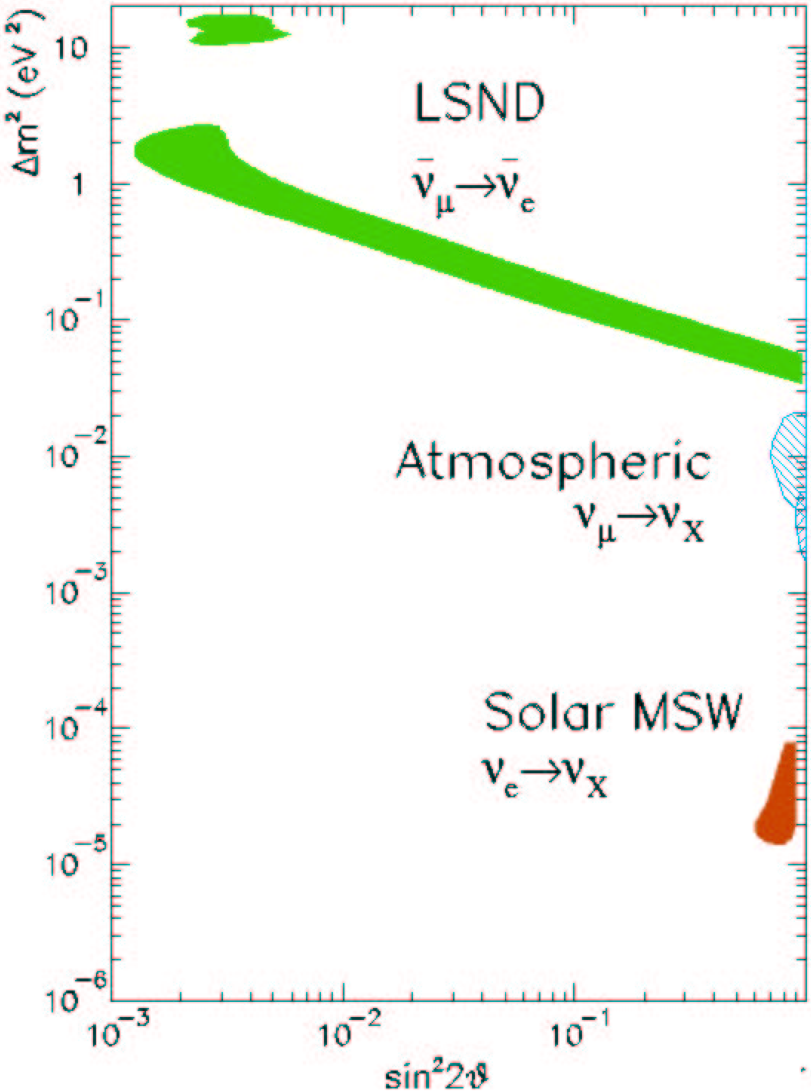
3.3 σ evidence for oscillation.

Decay in flight analysis ($\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$) oscillation probability of (0.10 ± 0.16 ± 0.04) %



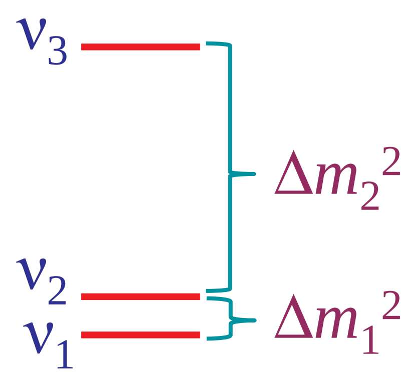
Why is this Result Interesting?





LEP found that there are only 3 light neutrinos that interact weakly.

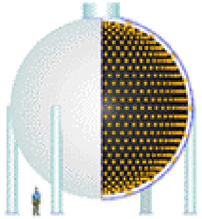
Three neutrinos allow only 2 independent Δm^2 scales.



$$\Delta m_3^2 = \Delta m_1^2 + \Delta m_2^2$$

But there are experimental results in 3 Δm^2 regions!?!

How Can We Fix the Things?



1. One or more of the experiments can be wrong.

2. Add a fourth sterile neutrino.

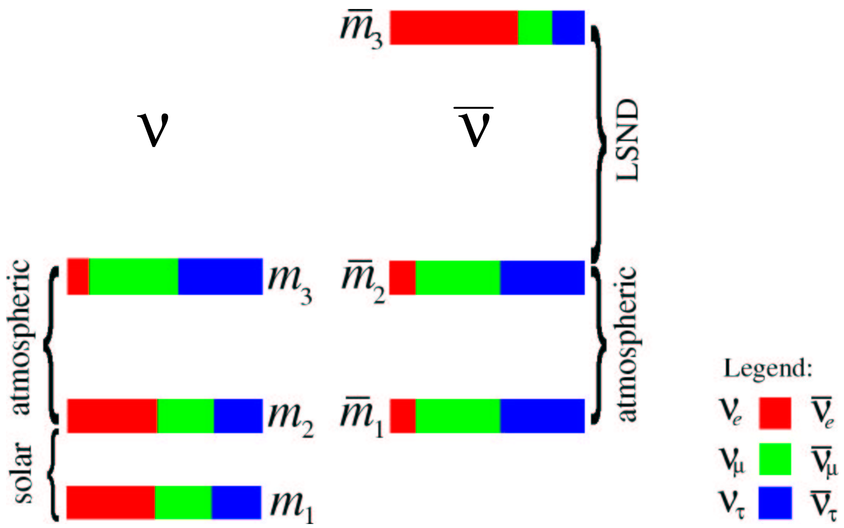
   Giving you three independent Δm^2 scales.

   (Not dead yet see Pas, Song, and Weiler *hep-ph*/0209373)

3. Violate CPT.

   Giving you different mass scales for ν and $\bar{\nu}$.

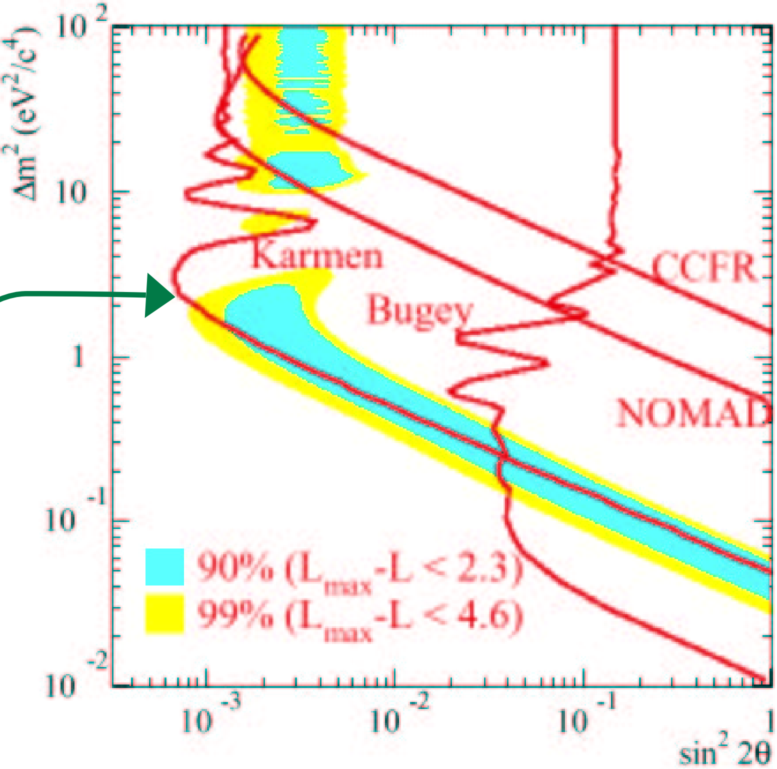
If MiniBooNE sees an LSND signal with ν we can rule this out, but if we don't then we need to run with $\bar{\nu}$!



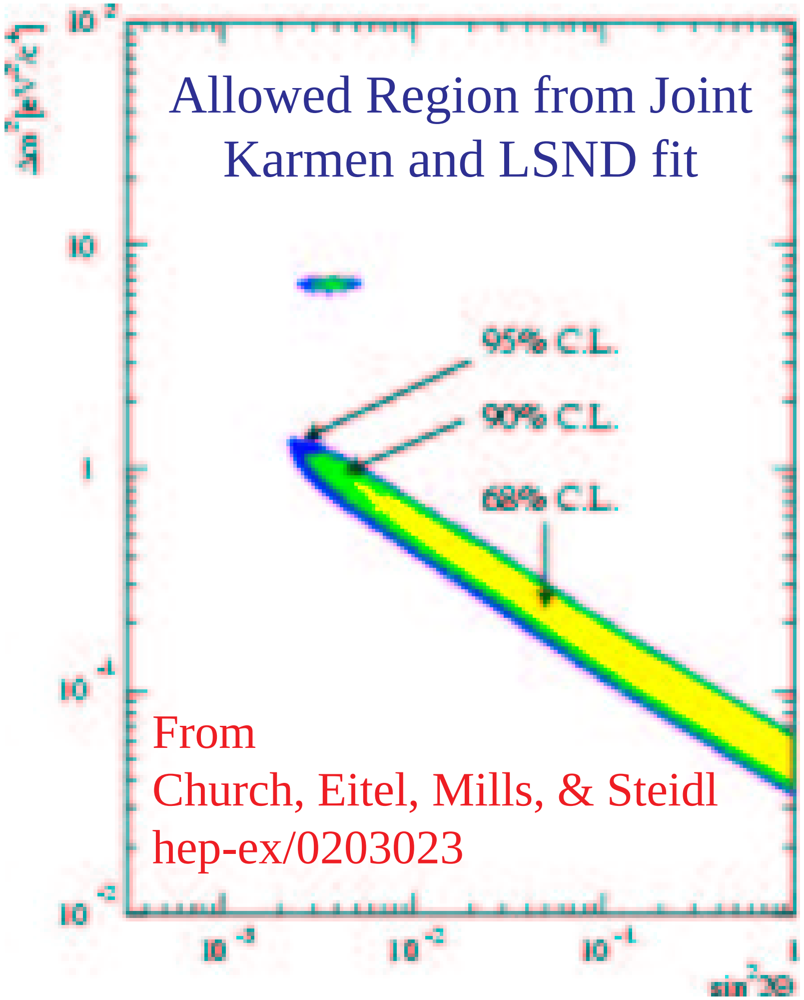
From Barenboim *et al.*, Phys.Lett.B534:106,2002

Other Related Data

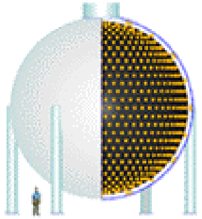
Several other experiments have looked for oscillations in this region.



The most restrictive limits come from the Karmen Experiment.

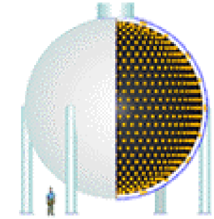


A Conclusive Experiment is Needed



- With High Significance
  - At least 5σ over the entire LSND region (including systematic and statistical uncertainties)
  - Demonstrating expected energy dependence for oscillation
- Low and *Different* Systematics (Change the signature)
  - Change the beam to higher energy
  - Optimize detector for new signature
- High Statistics
  - About an order of magnitude more events than LSND

The BooNE Collaboration



The BooNE Collaboration

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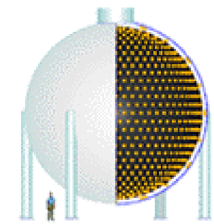
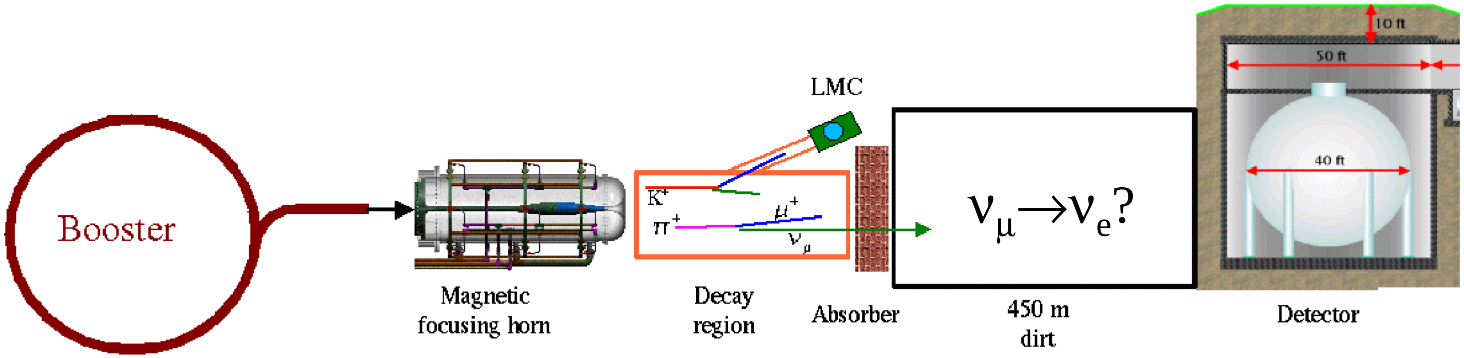
The Booster Neutrino Experiment… BooNE

BooNE was formed to search for ν_e appearance in a ν_μ beam at Fermilab.

BooNE consists of about 60 scientists from 13 institutions.

The MiniBooNE Neutrino Beam





Start with an intense 8 GeV proton beam from the Booster.

In the Be target primarily pions are produced, but also some kaons.

Charged pions decay almost exclusively as $\pi^\pm \rightarrow \mu^\pm \nu_\mu$.

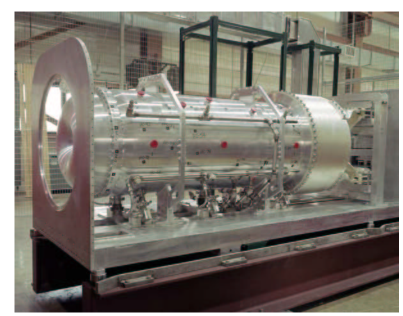
$K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^0 e^\pm \nu_e$, $K_L \rightarrow \pi^\pm e^\mp \nu_e$ and $\mu^\pm \rightarrow e^\pm \nu_e$ contribute ν_e's to background.

A toroidal field horn focuses the charged particles on the detector.

Initially positive particles will be focused selecting ν.

The horn current can be reversed to select $\bar{\nu}$.

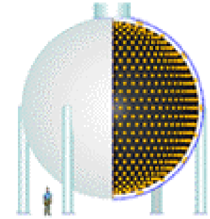
Increases neutrino intensity by an order of magnitude.



The horn is followed by a decay region.

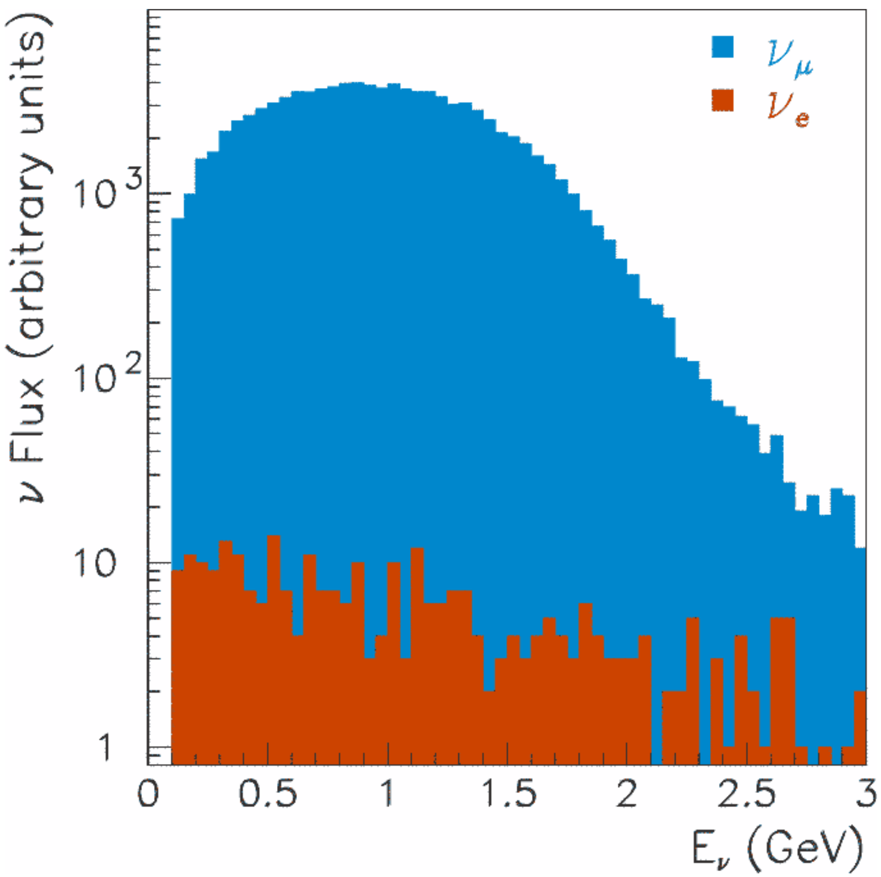
The decay region is followed by an absorber and 450 m of dirt, beyond which only the neutrino component of the beam survives.

Neutrino Flux at the Detector



The *L/E* is designed to be a good match to LSND at ~1 m/MeV.

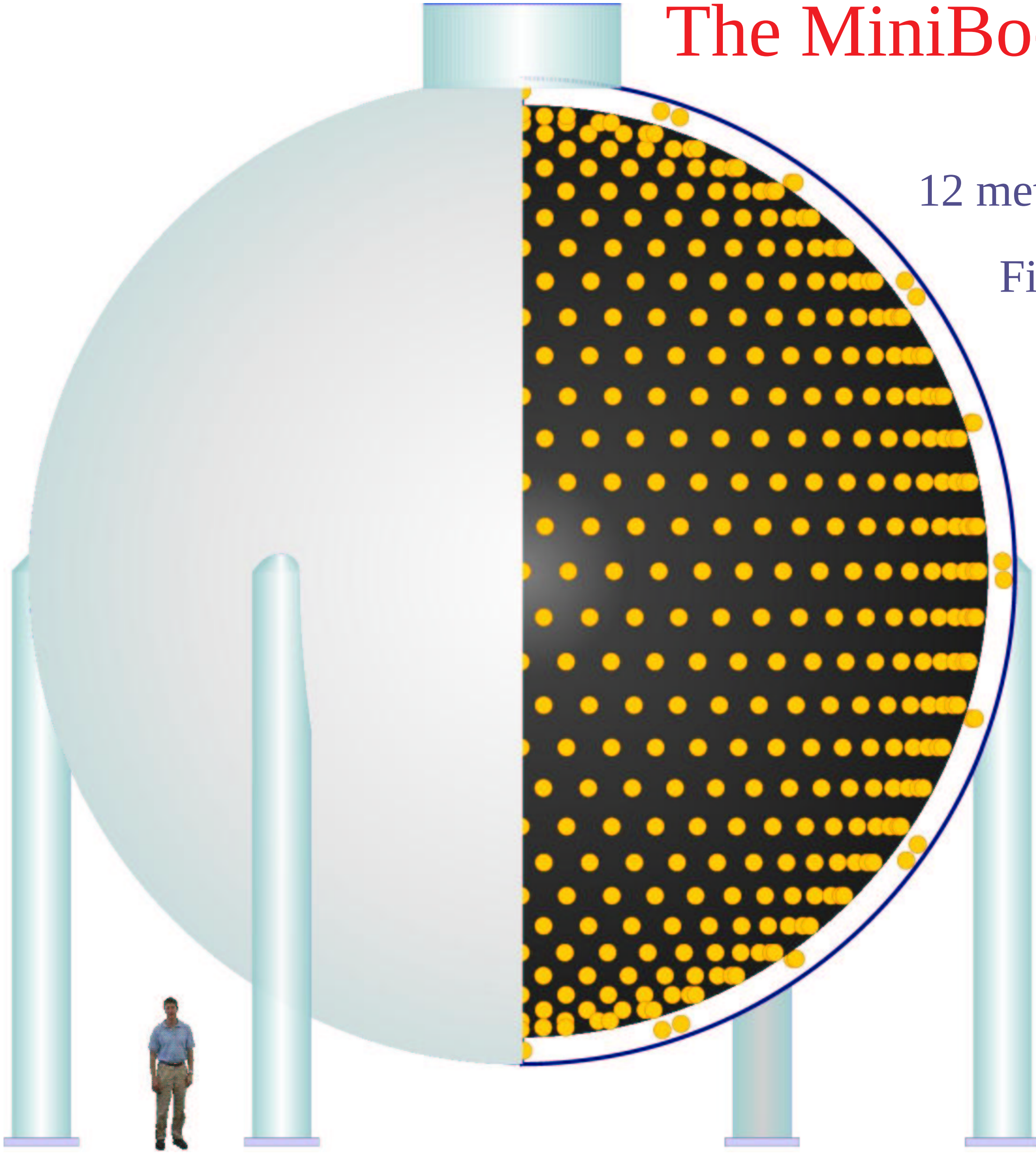
$$P_{oscillation} = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2(1.27\Delta m^2 L / E)$$

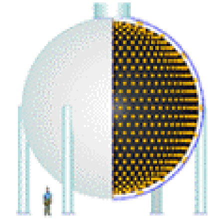


From beam simulations the expected intrinsic ν_e flux is small compared to the ν_μ flux.

But the intrinsic ν_e flux is comparable in size to an LSND-like signal.

The MiniBooNE Detector





12 meter diameter sphere

Filled with 950,000 liters of pure mineral oil — 20+ meter attenuation length

Light tight inner region with 1280 photomultiplier tubes

Outer veto region with 240 PMTs.

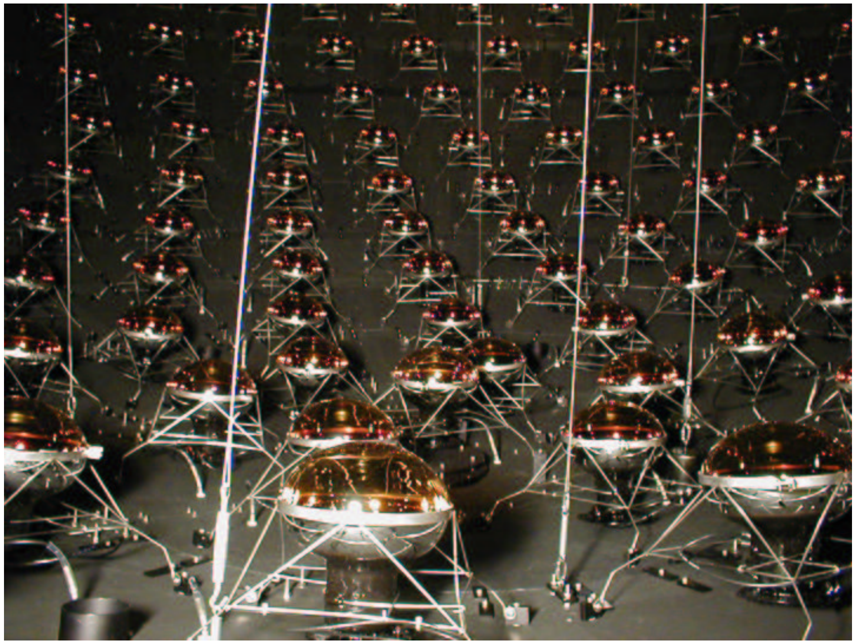
Neutrino interactions in oil produce:

• Prompt Čerenkov light

• Delayed scintillation light

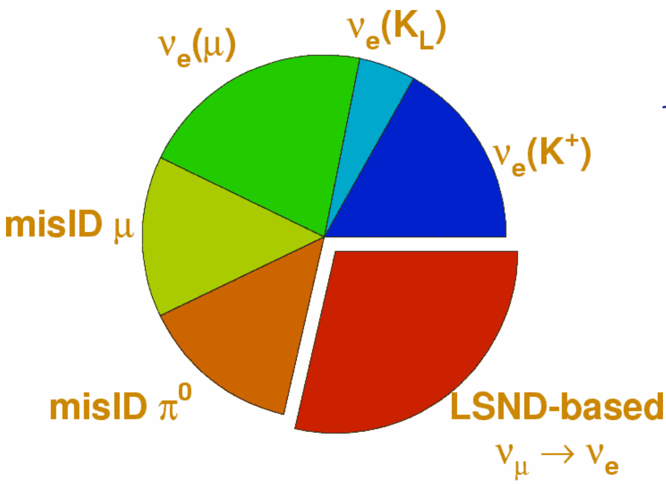
Čerenkov:scintillation ~ 5:1

Inside the MiniBooNE Detector

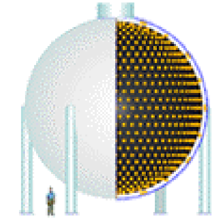


PMTs at the bottom of the detector just before sealing up the inner region.

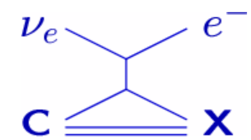
View of the Veto Region as the first oil is added to the detector.



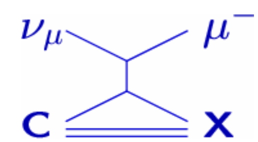
Approximate number of events expected in MiniBooNE with two years of running.



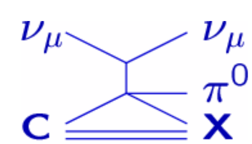
Intrinsic ν_e background: 1,500 events



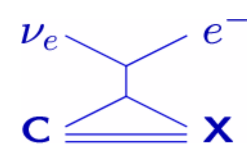
μ mis-ID background: 500 events



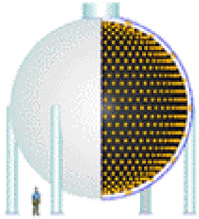
π^0 mis-ID background: 500 events



LSND-like $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$: 1,000 events



Particle Identification: μ, *e*, & π^0

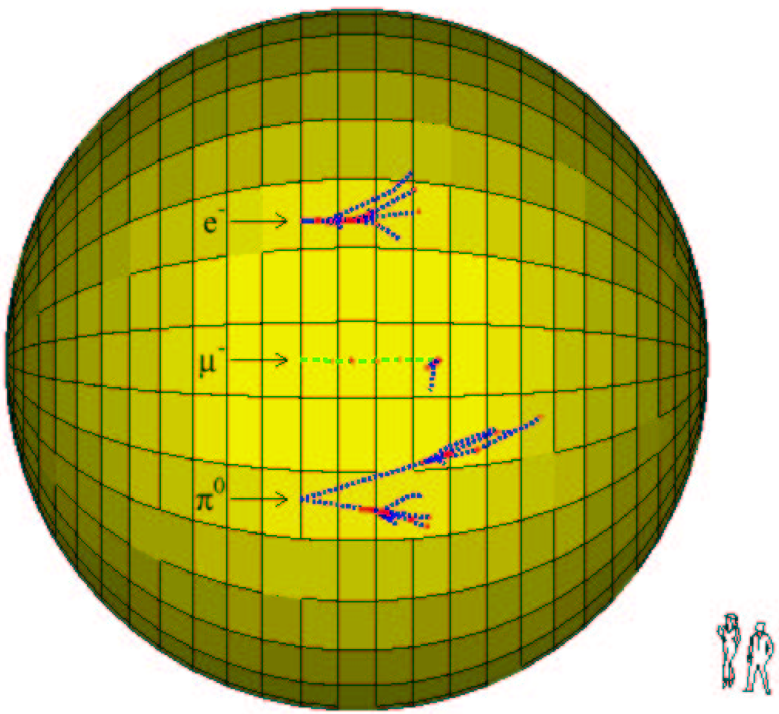


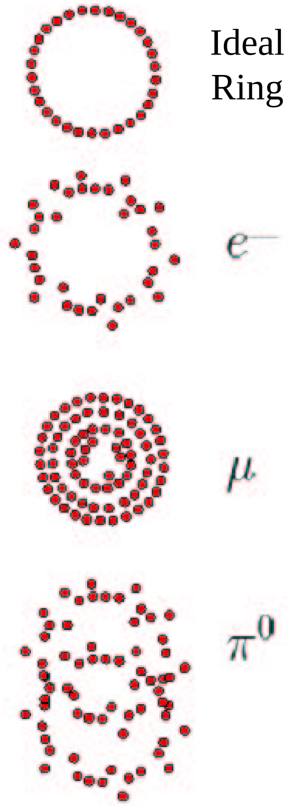
The signatures are substantially different from LSND
- Factor 10 higher energy
- Neutron capture does not play a role

Particle ID is based on ring id, track length, ratio of prompt/late light.

Fuzzy rings distinguish electrons from muons.

π^0 from neutral current interactions typically look like 2 electrons, but infrequently the two rings overlap and appear as one.

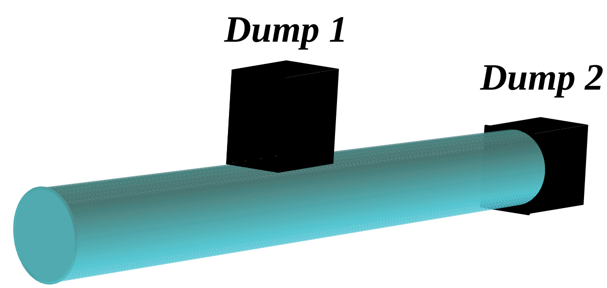




Understanding Backgrounds

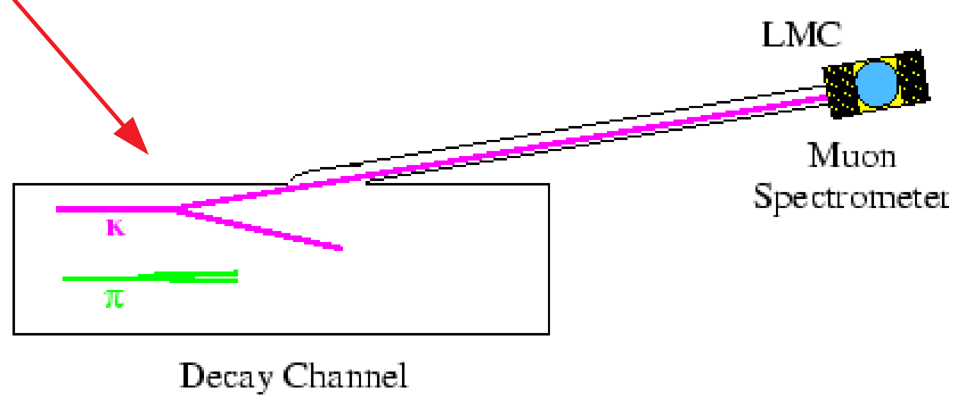
All Backgrounds can be related to data measurements

- Intrinsic Beam Backgrounds
  - ν_e from μ –decay
    - Directly tied to observed ν_μ rate
    - Quadratic decay pipe length dependence
  - ν_e from K–decay
    - Related to observed high E events
    - Beam surveys: BNL-910, HARP
    - “Little Muon Counters” (LMC)



Can change decay pipe length:

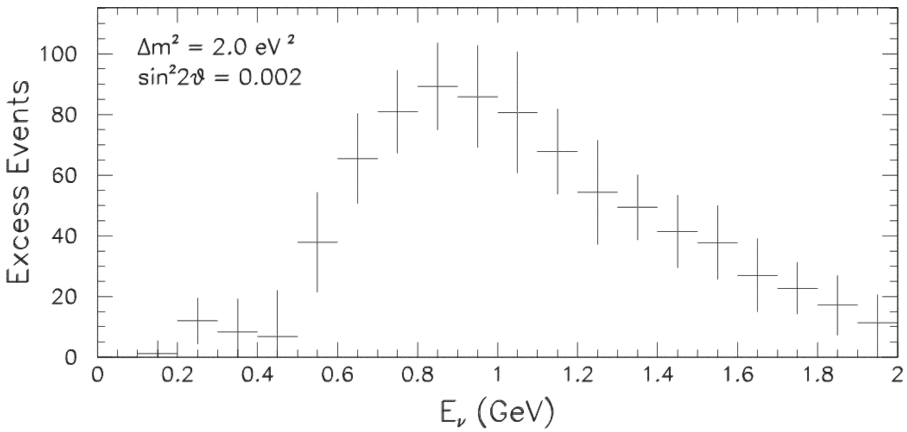
- ν_e from μ-decay $\propto L^2$
- ν_μ from π-decay $\propto L$
- ν_e from K-decay $\propto L^{<1}$

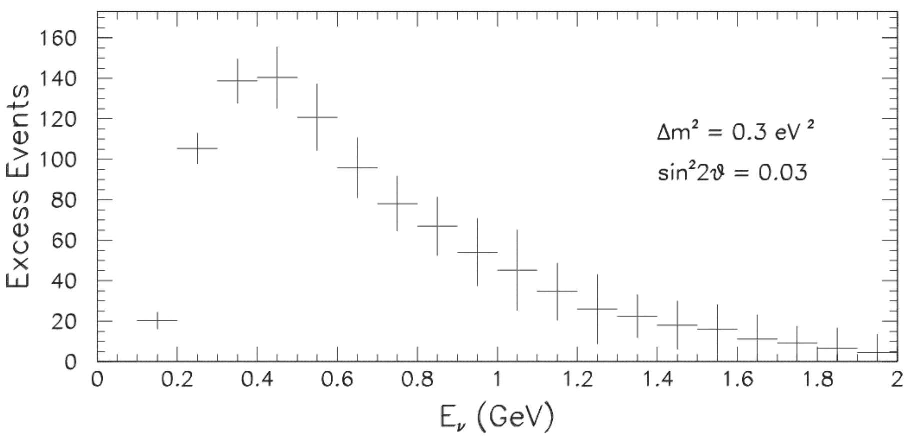


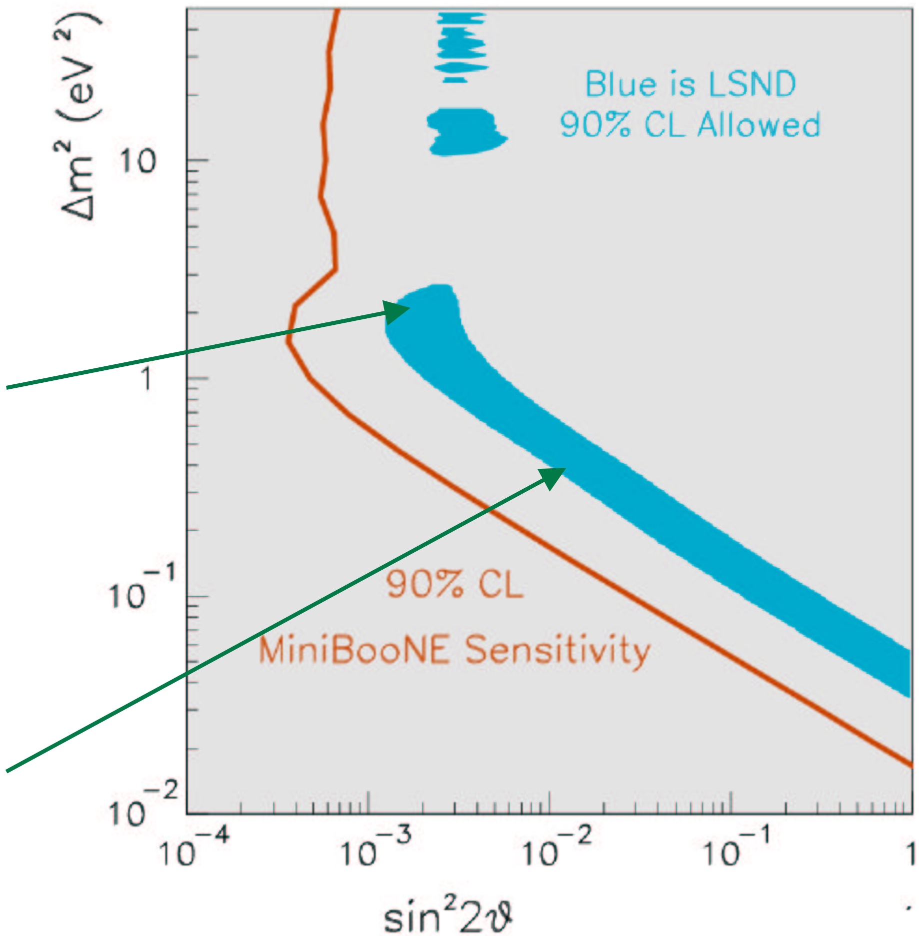
- Mis-Identification
  - Neutral current π^0 production
    - Scaled from the fraction that are properly reconstructed
  - ν_μ mis-id’ed as ν_e’s
    - Scaled from the majority that are properly reconstructed

MiniBooNE Sensitivity to LSND

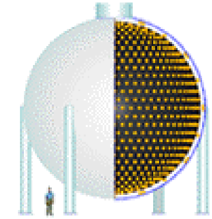
With 1×10^{21} protons on target MiniBooNE will completely cover the entire LSND signal region.



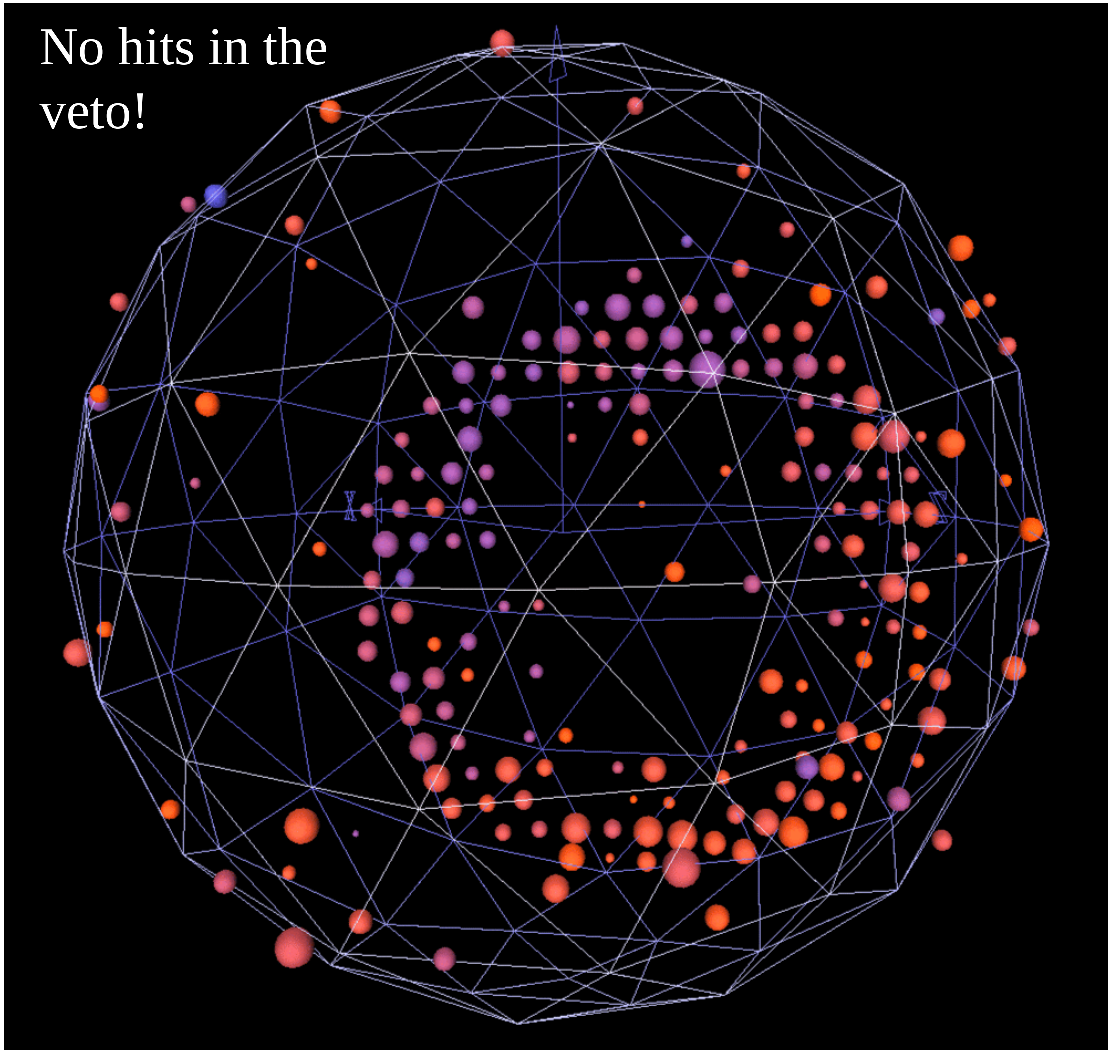




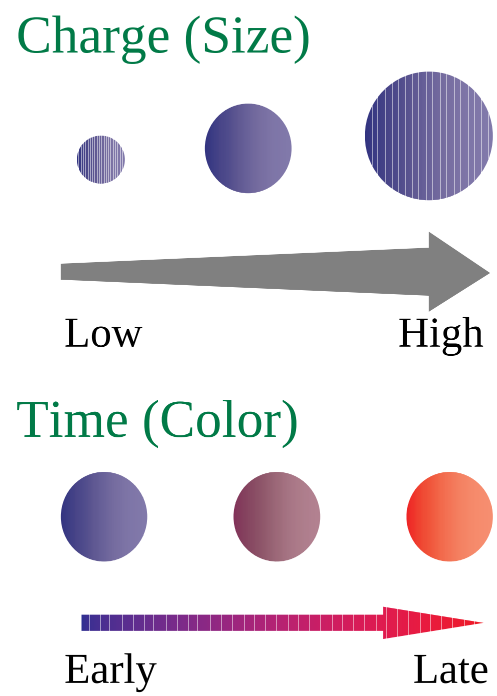
First Beam Events



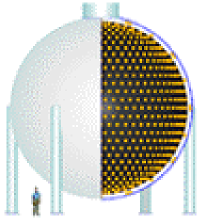
We started taking beam data in late August.



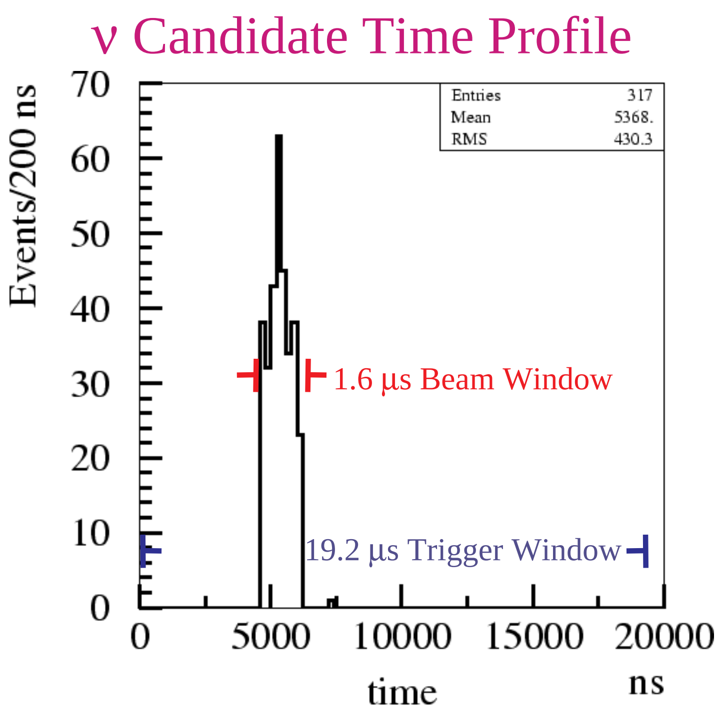
This is a typical event from the first few days of beam data.

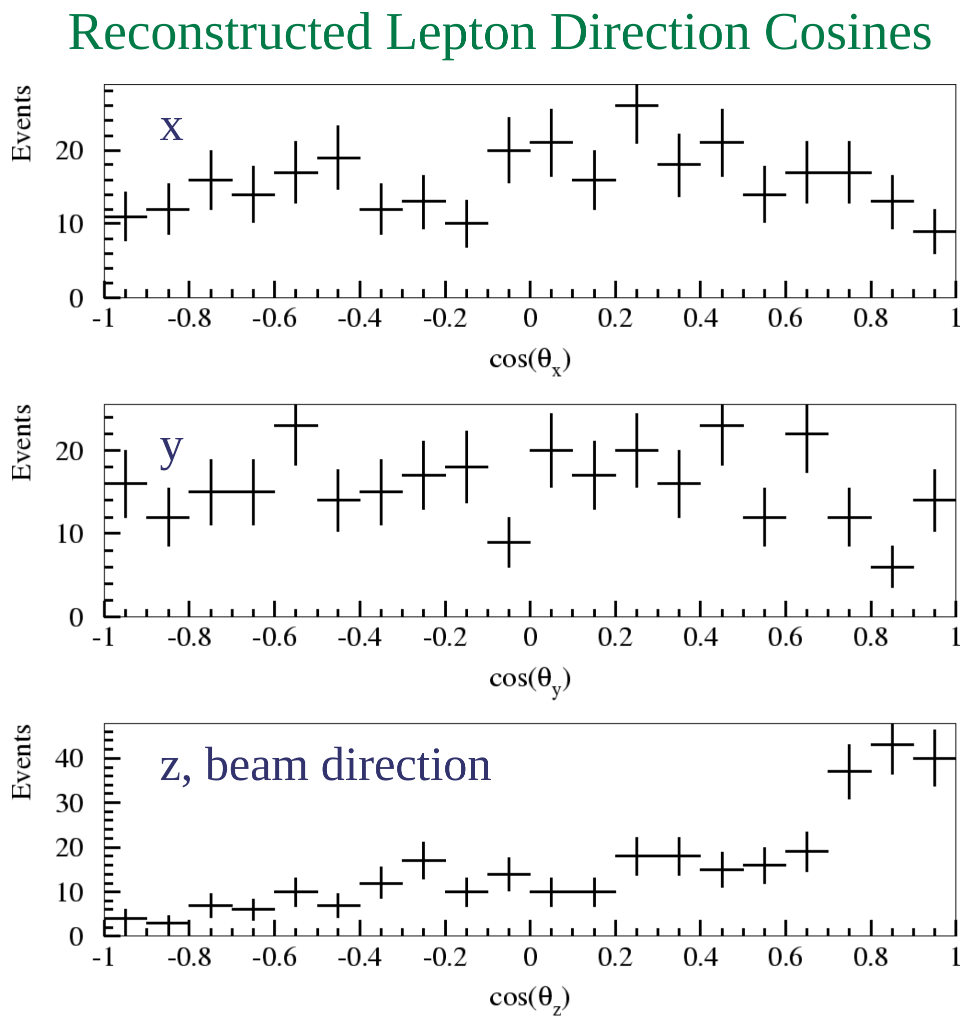


First Beam Events (Continued)



Events from our open sample (we're using a blind analysis).

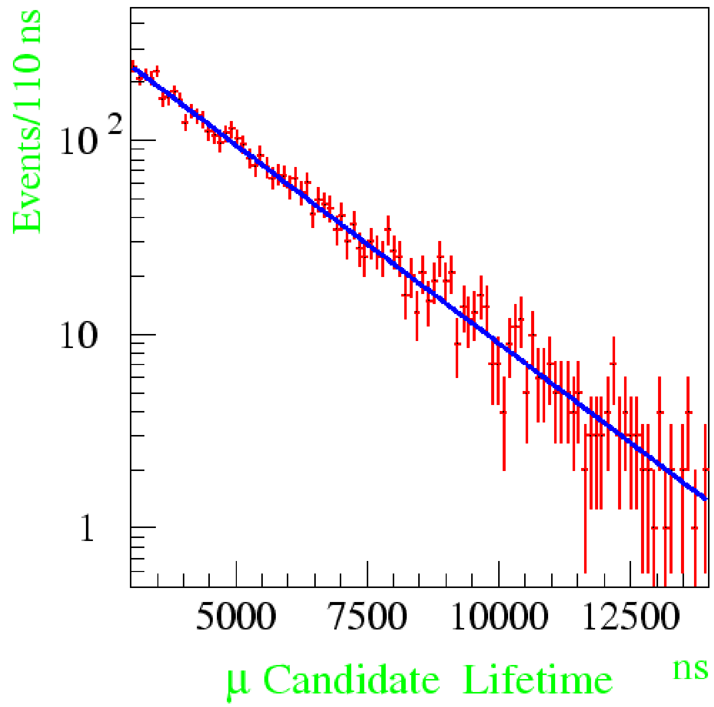




Required >250 hits in the Main Tank and <6 hits in the Veto.

Found 316 events in the beam window and only one background for a signal-to-noise ratio >3000!!!

Cosmic Muon Decays



Calibration Study

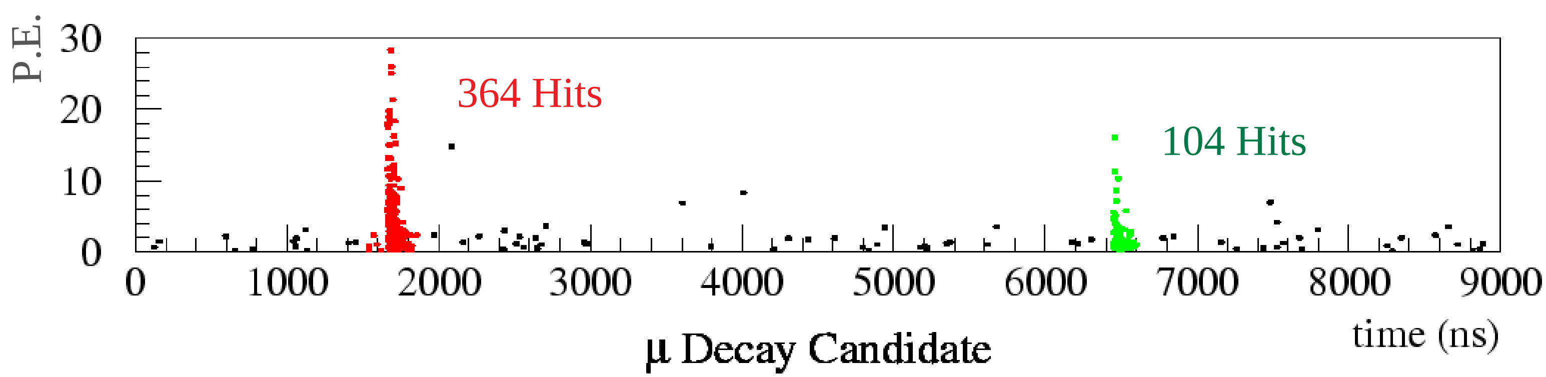
Fit Lifetime:

$\tau = 2.12 \pm 0.05\ \mu s$

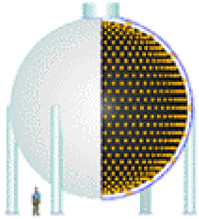
Expected μ lifetime in oil –

$2.13\ \mu s$

with 8% μ^- capture on Carbon.

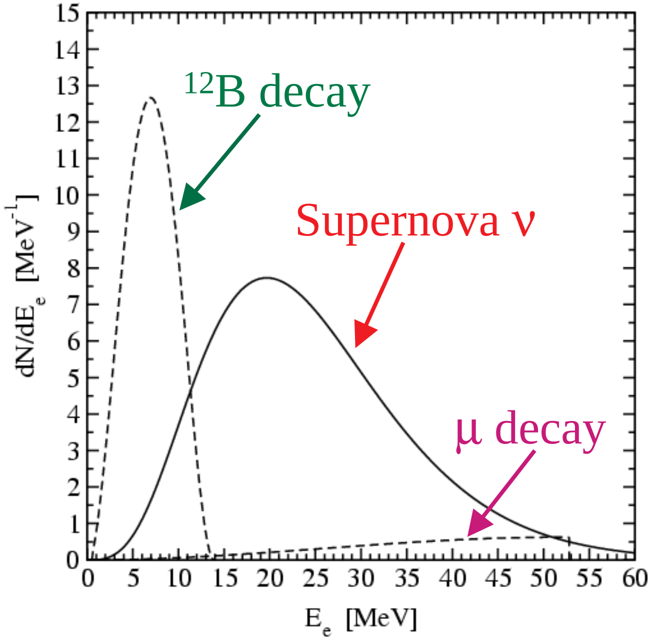


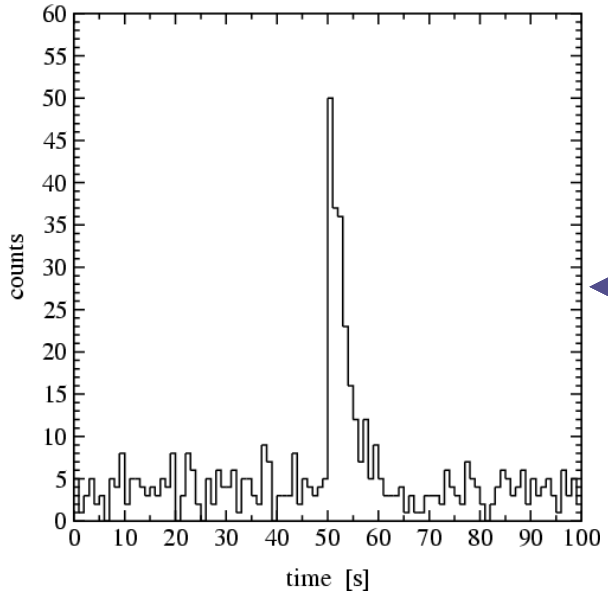
MiniBooNE as a Supernova ν Detector



For a Supernova within 10 Kpc MiniBooNE expects to see at least 200 ν interactions in a 10 second period.

From Sharp, Beacom, and Formaggio
Phys. Rev. D66:013012,2002



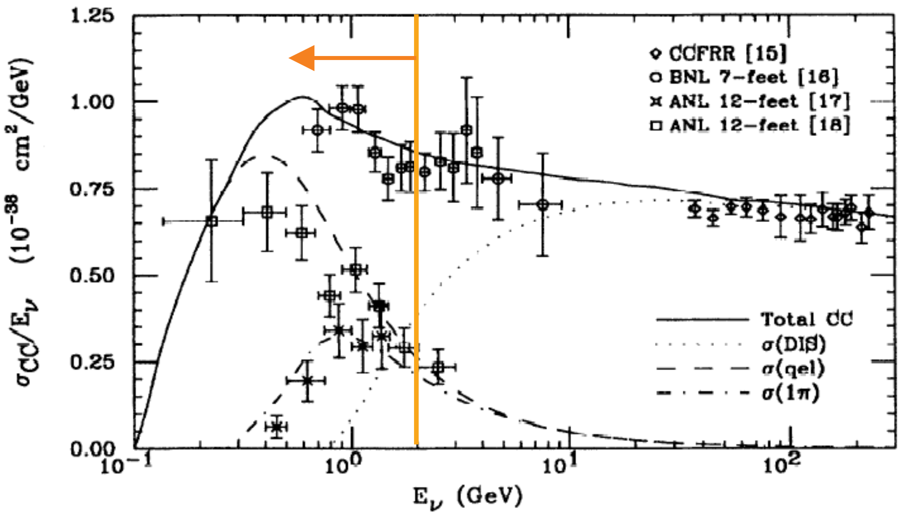


How the supernova signal might look as a function of time.

Cross Sections and Exotics

The ν cross sections are not well measured in our energy range.

Oscillation probability is small enough that we can ignore it in ν_μ cross section measurements.



From Lipari *et al.*, PRL 74, 4384

Exotics:

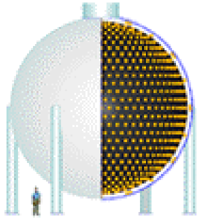
Look for things that may not have been conceived of yet

Neutrino Magnetic Moment (Very Small in SM)

The Karmen Timing Anomaly

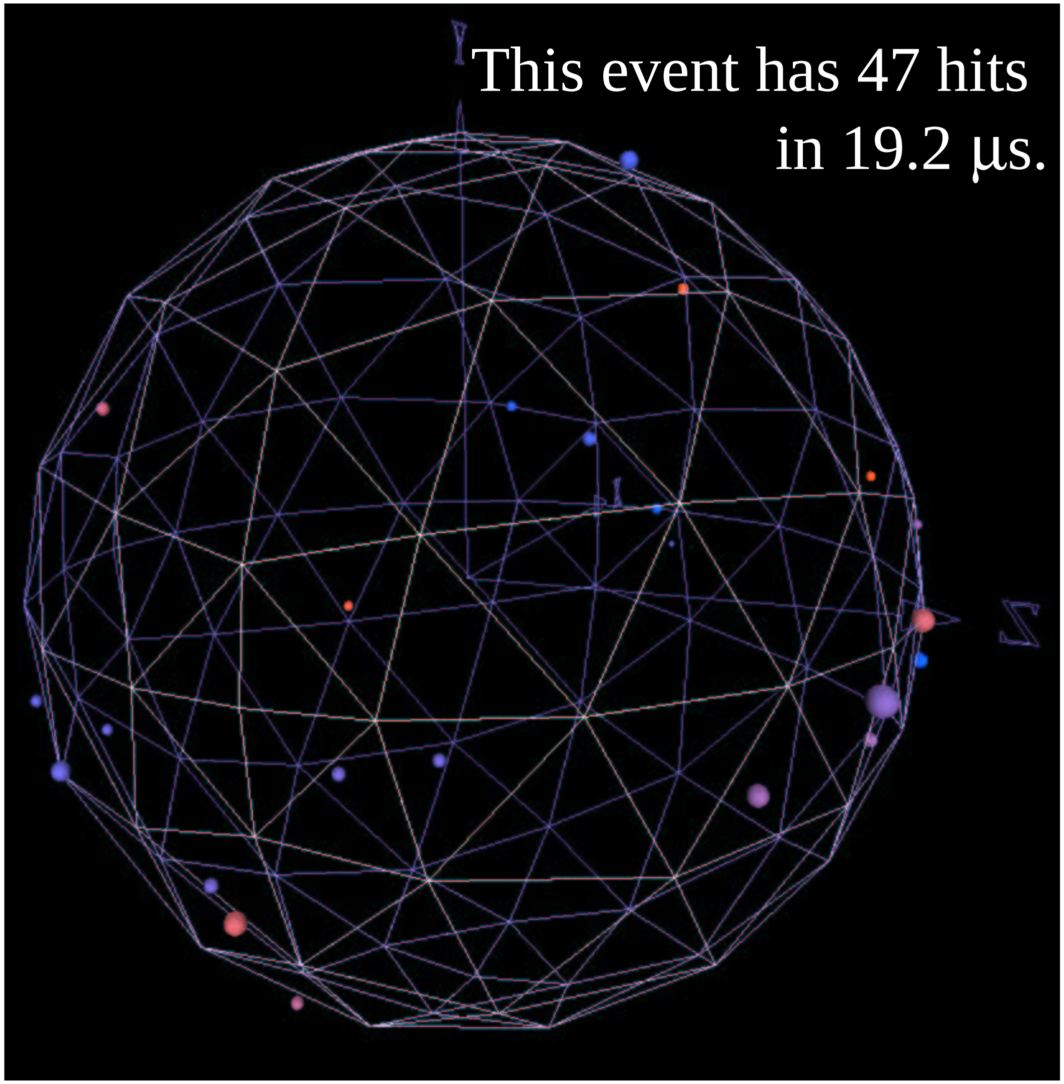
(see paper by Case, Koutsoliotas, and Novak, Phys. Rev. D65:077701, 2002)

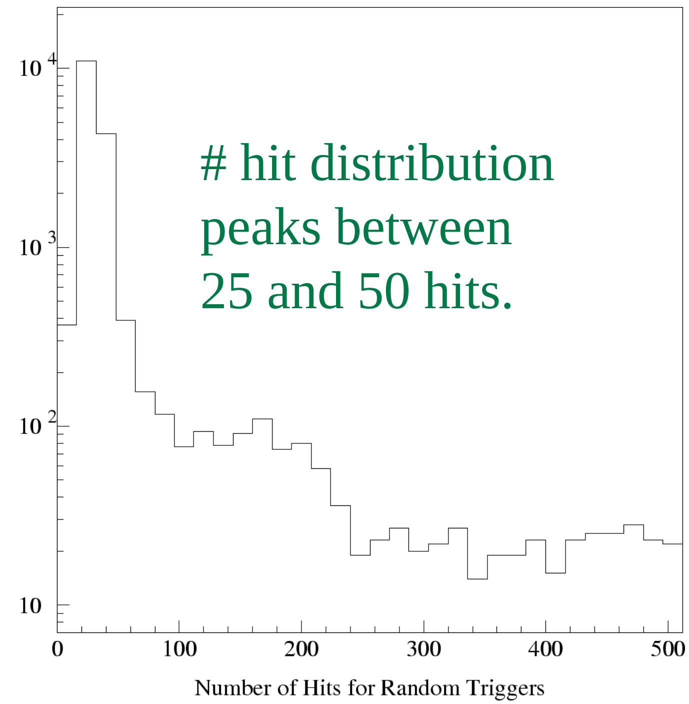
Conclusions and Outlook



- We began taking beam data in September of this year.
- We will take at least $5{\times}10^{20}$ protons on target in ν mode.
- With this data we should be able to confirm or rule out the full high Δm^2 oscillation range of LSND (CPT conserving).
- If no signal is seen in ν mode, $\bar{\nu}$ running is needed to investigate CPT violation.
- We will also study several other physics topics such as
  - Cross Sections
  - Supernova neutrinos
  - Exotics
- Possible upgrade to BooNE, a two detector experiment to carefully measure Δm^2 and look for ν_μ disappearance.

Typical Dark Noise in MiniBooNE





Mean per tube dark noise rate is only 1.2 kHz!

More on LSND's Analysis…

Examples of backgrounds people worry about...

Can these events be neutrons in coincidence with an e-like interaction?

- neutrons produced in the beam will sometimes capture
- but also will knock into the nucleus producing multiple γ's $\rightarrow$ the "smoking gun" is an excess of multiple γ events.

Events with one associated γ: 49.2 ± 9 events
Events with > 1 associated γ: -2.8 ± 1.7 events

Estimated background from neutrons in the beam: < 2 events

Can these events be from $\bar{\nu}_\mu + p \rightarrow \mu^+ + n$?

- The $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ come the neutrino has to have > 105 MeV
  - It had to be produced by decay-in-flight (not DAR)
  - The CC probability is small until well above threshold
- You have to mis-identify the muon!

Estimated background from $\bar{\nu}_\mu$: < 5 events

The spatial distribution of the excess

- If the excess is due to oscillations, then the distribution will look similar the ν_e beam events. (solid black line)
- If the events are due to background, then you expect asymmetries in the distribution...